

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Munenori SAWADA

Application No.: New US Patent Application

Filed: February 7, 2002

Docket No.: 111914

For: INPUT SYSTEM FOR PORTABLE TERMINAL, PORTABLE TERMINAL,
CONTROL UNIT, AND INPUT PROGRAM FOR PORTABLE TERMINAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 5, 8 and 11 as follows:

5. (Amended) The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2,

wherein:

said portable terminal comprises contact detection plates for detecting contact on plate surfaces and accepts input from said control units based on the result of detection performed by said contact detection plates; and

each of said control units comprises movable contacts which, when said control unit is mounted on said portable terminal in such a way as to lie on one of said contact detection plates, come into and out of contact with said contact detection plate by move.

8. (Amended) The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2,

wherein:

said portable terminal comprises portable-terminal-side connection terminals for connecting electrically with said control units and accepts input from said control units through electrical communications with said portable-terminal-side connection terminals; and

each of said control units comprises a control-unit-side connection terminal for connecting electrically with one of said portable-terminal-side connection terminals and operation means to be operated by the user, and in response to the operation of said operation means, changes the content of electrical signals associated with electrical communications between said control-unit-side connection terminal and said portable-terminal-side connection terminal.

11. (Amended) The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2,

wherein:

said portable terminal requires, during application start-up, for one or more of said control units to be selected and when one or more control units are selected, accepts input for the application from the selected control unit(s).

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 5, 8 and 11 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attached: APPENDIX
Date: February 7, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

5. (Amended) The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2-~~or~~4,

wherein:

said portable terminal comprises contact detection plates for detecting contact on plate surfaces and accepts input from said control units based on the result of detection performed by said contact detection plates; and

each of said control units comprises movable contacts which, when said control unit is mounted on said portable terminal in such a way as to lie on one of said contact detection plates, come into and out of contact with said contact detection plate by move.

8. (Amended) The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2-~~or~~4,

wherein:

said portable terminal comprises portable-terminal-side connection terminals for connecting electrically with said control units and accepts input from said control units through electrical communications with said portable-terminal-side connection terminals; and

each of said control units comprises a control-unit-side connection terminal for connecting electrically with one of said portable-terminal-side connection terminals and operation means to be operated by the user, and in response to the operation of said operation means, changes the content of electrical signals associated with electrical communications between said control-unit-side connection terminal and said portable-terminal-side connection terminal.

11. (Amended) The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2any-~~of claims 2 and 4 to 10~~, wherein:

said portable terminal requires, during application start-up, for one or more of said control units to be selected and when one or more control units are selected, accepts input for the application from the selected control unit(s).

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